### 'Fiery' Psaki ending tenure as a top White House messenger

WASHINGTON (AP) — Jen Psaki had been White House press secretary less than two weeks when a reporter asked whether Twitter's ban of Donald Trump had made President Joe Biden's life easier.

"We don't spend a lot of time talking about or thinking about President Trump here," she responded, then added for emphasis: "Former President Trump." It was an early indication of what was to come with this press secretary. Her briefings were professional and typically congenial, but could turn pointed in a hurry. The sessions were informative but generally lacked the drama to draw big ratings on cable television.

Psaki, whose last day on the job is Friday, has answered reporters' questions nearly every weekday of the almost 500 days that Biden has been in office. That makes her a top White House communicator and perhaps the administration's most public faceafter only the president and Vice President Kamala Harris.

Continued on next page



White House press secretary Jen Psaki speaks during a press briefing at the White House, Feb. 23, 2022, in Washington.

Associated Press





#### **Continued from Front**

Her departure could complicate how Biden's message gets out at a critical time for him, at least in the short term.

"Anybody with a brain would want her to stay because she's so good," said Martha Joynt Kumar, a political science professor emerita at Towson University and director of the White House Transition Project, a nonpartisan group that tries to help streamline the transfer of power from one administration to the next. Succeeding Psaki is Karine

Jean-Pierre, the first Black woman and openly LGBTQ person to be White House press secretary. She takes over as the administration is navigating inflation and Russia's war with Ukraine, and as the Democratic Party is bracing for a November election losses that could erase its control of Congress.

The White House says Jean-Pierre, who has been Psaki's chief deputy, will bring strong personal expertise and personality to the briefing room. She knows Biden well and has been a longtime adviser.

"I've had the honor of working with many White House press secretaries and no one has done the job as well as Jen Psaki," White House chief of staff Ron Klain, a veteran of the Obama and Clinton administrations, said in a statement. "I will miss her terribly as a colleague and friend, but I know we are in great hands with Karine following her lead."

Psaki has not denied reports she is heading to MSBNC, where on-air personalities are mostly sympathetic to Biden and where Jean-Pierre herself is a former analyst. Such a move will do little to alter perceptions of Psaki on the left or right. Democrats see her as a champion of their causes; conservatives says



White House press secretary Jen Psaki hugs incoming press secretary Karine Jean-Pierre during a press briefing at the White House, May 5, 2022, in Washington.

hypocrisy." A New York Post

**Associated Press** 

she is standoffish.

Groups cheering Psaki are common across social media, including #Psakibomb, which has more than 22 million views on TikTok. Psaki's sisters wore sweatshirts with the slogan during family Zoom calls, though it was more about gently poking fun at their sibling than making a political statement

But Psaki angered Republicans by likening the party's supporters who adhere to Trump's fabrications about the 2020 election to "silent lemmings. " When she quipped early in her tenure that she did not know who at the White House could answer questions about Space Force, House Republicans said she was belittling a new branch of the armed services that is working to counter Chinese threats. More recently, Sarah Huckabee Sanders, a former Trump press secretary now running for Arkansas governor, said Psaki's failure to urge people to stop protesting outside the homes of judges represented "mind-boggling

columnist called Psaki "the condescending face of the Biden administration." Colleagues say Psaki is an encouraging and selfless office leader who digs deep into policy, seeking an understanding that goes far beyond talking points. Psaki begins her mornings writing long, sometimes predawn emails to her staff, laying out what news is likely to drive the day. She later holds pre-briefing prep sessions, which are often long enough to be interrupted by other meetings, where White House press staffers assigned to track different issues talk about major themes in their areas.

"At the end of the day, she is a policy wonk," said Jeff Zients, Biden's former COV-ID-19 response coordinator. He called her a "once in a generation talent" adept in both policy and communication.

"She is intellectually curious, she asks the right questions and doesn't stop asking questions until she's satisfied that she's gotten to the bottom of the issue," he said.

A 43-year-old native of Stamford, Connecticut, Psaki is the mother of children ages 6 and 4. She served as State Department spokesperson as well as deputy press secretary and deputy White House communications director under President Barack Obama. Facing reporters mere hours after Biden was sworn in on Jan. 20, 2021, Psaki stressed the importance of "bringing truth and transparency back to the briefing room."

Trump went through four press secretaries, including Stephanie Grisham who never held a briefing, and her successor, Kayleigh McEnany, who was fond of lecturing the media and simultaneously served as a campaign adviser. Trump preferred to engage directly with the public, through rallies and tweets before he was banned from that social media platform. He also sometimes held his own briefings and routinely spread falsehoods while antagonizing reopenly porters.

Kathleen Hall Jamieson, director of the Annenberg Public Policy Center at the tary has "been done well that provide real informa- debate."

She said Psaki had a "facticity to her work that is characteristic of good press secretaries and it presupposes confidence. It presupposes access to the president. It presupposes an understanding of what the administration's position is that proves to be true." Psaki, who got COVID-19 twice while on the job, showed that striking a balance between transparency and advancing the administration's message could sometimes mean literally keeping her balance. While aboard Air Force One, she sometimes stood

in the aisle taking report-

ers' questions right through

tion.

landing. "She made it clear that the press has a fundamental role in our democracy and even the most exasperating people in the press corps must be treated with dignity if not always with respect," Mike McCurry, who was press secretary under President Bill Clinton, said of Psaki via email. "That's a lasting legacy." Robert Gibbs, who was Obama's press secretary and helped coach Psaki before she took on the role, said she had resurrected the White House briefing room as "beneficial for democracy" after "it was dead" under Trump. Gibbs also noted that Biden has largely shunned sit-down media interviews, making

cially important. "I think she was remarkably effective spokesperson for a White House that is probably more dependent on its spokespeople than the few most previous White Houses," Gibbs said.

his press secretary espe-

Psaki's office referred questions to other White House staffers who could discuss her tenure. But she recently told Fox News Channel's "MediaBuzz," "I'm an Irish lass in my heart."

"Sometimes I get a little fiery in there," Psaki said. "But on most days, my hope and my objective is to not make University of Pennsylvania, it a gotcha moment and said the job of press secre- to make it a place where we are providing informaboth on the right and the tion, getting accurate inleft" and requires respect- formation to the public ing the media while an- through the press, through swering questions in ways tough questions, through





### U.S. finds 500 Native American boarding school deaths so far

FLAGSTAFF, Ariz. (AP) — A first-of-its-kind federal study of Native American boardina schools that for over a century sought to assimilate Indigenous children into white society has identified more than 500 student deaths at the institutions, but officials say that figure could grow exponentially as research continues.

The Interior Department report released Wednesday expands to more than 400 the number of schools that were known to have operated across the U.S. for 150 years, starting in the early 19th century and coinciding with the removal of many tribes from their ancestral lands. It identified the deaths in records for about 20 of the schools.

The dark history of Native American boarding schools — where children were forced from their families, prohibited from speaking their languages and often abused — has been felt deeply across Indian Country and through generations.

Many children never returned home, and the Interior Department said that with further investigation the number of known student deaths could climb



In this July 8, 2021, photo, adjunct history professor and research associate Larry Larrichio holds a copy of a late 19th century photograph of pupils at an Indigenous boarding school in Santa Fe during an interview in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

**Associated Press** 

tens of thousands. Causes included illness, accidental injuries and abuse, officials

"Each of those children is a missing family member, a person who was not able to live out their purpose on this Earth because they lost their lives as part of this terrible system," said Interior

whose paternal grandparents were sent to boarding school for several years as

The agency is in the process of poring through thousands of boxes containing more than 98 million pages of records, with help from many Indigenous people who have had to work ing schools on Indigenous to the thousands or even Secretary Deb Haaland, through their own trauma communities, the Interior

and pain. Accounting for the number of deaths will be difficult because records weren't always kept. A second volume of the report will cover burial sites as well as the federal government's financial investment in the schools and the impacts of the boardDepartment said. It has so far identified at least 53 burial sites at or near boarding schools, not all of which have marked graves.'

Tribal leaders have pressed the agency to ensure that any children's remains that are found are properly cared for and delivered back to their tribes, if desired. The burial sites' locations will not be released publicly to prevent them from being disturbed, said Bryan Newland, the Interior Department's assistant secretary for Indian Affairs.

At a news conference Wednesday, Haaland choked back tears as she described how the boarding school era perpetuated poverty, mental health disorders, substance abuse and premature deaths in Indigenous communities.

"Recognizing the impacts of the federal Indian boarding school system cannot just be a historical reckoning," she said. "We must also chart a path forward to deal with these legacy issues."

Haaland, who is Laguna, announced an initiative last June to investigate the troubled legacy of boarding schools and uncover the truth about the government's role in them.

### U.S. overdose deaths hit record 107,000 last year, CDC says

By MIKE STOBBE **AP Medical Writer** 

**NEW YORK (AP)** — More than 107,000 Americans died of drug overdoses last year, setting another tragic record in the nation's escalating overdose epidemic, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimated Wednesday.

The provisional 2021 total translates to roughly one U.S. overdose death every 5 minutes.

It marked a 15% increase oxone. from the previous record, U.S. overdose deaths have reporting.

Drug Abuse, called the lat- licit fentanyl.

ing."

The White House issued a statement calling the accelerating pace of overdose deaths "unacceptable" and promoting its recently announced national drug control strategy. It calls for measures like connecting more people to treatment, disrupting drug trafficking and expanding access to the overdosereversing medication nal-

set the year before. The risen most years for more CDC reviews death certifi- than two decades. The in- "The net effect is that we cates and then makes an crease began in the 1990s have many more people, estimate to account for with overdoses involving including those who use delayed and incomplete opioid painkillers, followed drugs occasionally and Dr. Nora Volkow, director other opioids like heroin to these potent substances downs and other restric- of any state. In Hawaii, of the National Institute on and — most recently — il- that can cause someone tions isolated those with overdose deaths fell by

est numbers "truly stagger- Last year, overdoses involving fentanyl and other synthetic opioids surpassed 71,000, up 23% from the year before. There also was a 23% increase in deaths involving cocaine and a 34% increase in deaths involving meth and other stimulants. Overdose deaths are often attributed to more than one drug. Some people take multiple drugs and inexpensive fentanyl has been increasingly cut into other drugs, often without the buyers' knowledge, of-

to overdose even with a drug addictions and made 2%.



Deb Walker visits the grave of her daughter, Brooke Goodwin, Thursday, Dec. 9, 2021, in Chester, Vt.

**Associated Press** 

Experts say the COVID-19

relatively small exposure," treatment harder to get. Volkow said in a statement. Overdose death trends are aeoaraphically pandemic has exacerbat- Alaska saw a 75% increase by waves of deaths led by even adolescents, exposed ed the problem as lock- in 2021 — the largest jump



### Judge: Trump must pay \$110K, meet conditions to end contempt

NEW YORK (AP) — A New York judge said Wednesday he will lift Donald Trump's contempt of court order if the former president meets certain conditions, including paying \$110,000 in fines he's racked up for being slow to respond to a subpoena for evidence in a civil investigation into his business practices.

In one of two Trump subpoena fights before courts on Wednesday, Judge Arthur Engoron said he will lift his finding of contempt if Trump submits additional paperwork by May 20 detailing efforts to search for the subpoenaed records and explaining his and his company's document retention policies.

The judge also requires that a company Trump hired to aid in the search, Haystack-ID, finish going through 17 boxes kept at an off-site storage facility, and for that company to issue a report on its findings and turn over any relevant documents.

Engoron found Trump in contempt on April 25 and fined him \$10,000 per day for not complying with New York Attorney General Letitia James' subpoena. While appealing the ruling, Trump's lawyers repeatedly asked Engoron to reconsider, leading to his order



Former President Donald Trump speaks at a rally at the Delaware County Fairgrounds, Saturday, April 23, 2022, in Delaware, Ohio, to endorse Republican candidates ahead of the Ohio primary. **Associated Press** 

Wednesday outlining criteria for lifting the sanctions. Also Wednesday, the appellate division of the state's trial court was scheduled to hear oral arguments in a related subpoena matter: Trump's appeal of the judge's Feb. 17 ruling requiring him to answer questions under oath in James' investigation.

Trump's lawyers contend James is using her civil investigation to gain access

to information that could then be used against the Republican former president in a parallel criminal investigation being conducted by the Manhattan District Attorney, Alvin Braga, a Democrat.

James, also a Democrat, has said her three-year investigation has uncovered evidence that Trump's company misstated the value of assets like skyscrapers and golf courses on financial statements for over a decade.

Trump has denied the allegations, calling James' investigation "racist" and a "witch hunt." James is Black. Engoron ordered Trump to pay \$110,000 because that is the total amount of fines he accrued through May 6, when Trump's lawyers submitted 66 pages of court documents detailing the efforts by him and his lawyers to locate the subpoenaed records.

Engoron said he could reinstate the fine, retroactive to May 7, if the conditions he set forth on Wednesday are not met. He instructed Trump to pay the money directly to James' office and for James' office to hold the money in an escrow account while Trump's appeal of the contempt finding plays out.

"For years, Mr. Trump and the Trump Organization have tried to thwart our lawful investigation, but today's decision makes clear that no one can evade accountability," James said in a statement. "We will continue to enforce the law and seek answers as part of this investigation."

A message seeking comment was left with Trump's lawyer.

James asked Engoron to hold Trump in contempt of court after he failed to produce any documents to satisfy a March 31 deadline to meet the terms of her subpoena seeking numerous documents, including papers pertaining to his annual financial statements, development projects, and even communications with Forbes magazine, where he sought to burnish his image as a wealthy businessman.

### Pilot down, passenger takes over with 'no idea how to fly'



In this still image from video by WPTV shows emergency personnel surrounding a Cessna plane at Palm Beach International Airport Tuesday, May 10, 2022, in West Palm Beach, Fla.

**Associated Press** 

### WEST PALM BEACH, Fla. (AP)

 A passenger with no flying experience radioed an urgent plea for help when the pilot of a small plane able to land the plane

safely with the help of air traffic controllers.

"I've aot a serious situation here," the man said Tuesday afternoon, according suddenly fell ill off Florida's to audio on LiveATC.net, Atlantic coast, and was a website that broadcasts coast, either north or southand archives air traffic con-

communications. "My pilot has gone incoherent. I have no idea how to fly the airplane."

An air traffic controller in Fort Pierce responded, asking if he knew the position of the single-engine Cessna 280.

"I have no idea. I can see the coast of Florida in front of me, and I have no idea," the passenger said.

According to Flight Aware, the plane had taken off earlier Tuesday from Marsh more clearly. Harbour International Airport in the Bahamas.

As the plane flew over Florida, the controller, speaking very calmly, told the passenger to "maintain wings level and try to follow the bound." Twin controls enable a Cessna 280 to be steered from the passenger seat. Minutes passed before controllers were able to locate the plane, which by then was heading north over Boca Raton.

Then the man's voice seemed to fade, so the controller in Fort Pierce asked for the passenger's cellphone number to enable controllers at Palm Beach International Airport to communicate with him

Air traffic controller Robert Morgan, a 20-year veteran, took over at that point, talking the passenger down to a safe landing.

"Kudos to the new pilot," one controller told him after the plane smoothly wheeled down the tarmac.

Morgan told television station WPBF he felt like he was in the right place at the right time.

"I knew the plane was flying like any other plane. I just had to keep him calm, point him to the runway and just tell him how to reduce the power so he could descend to land. It felt really good to help someone," Morgan said. Federal Aviation Administration spokesman Rick Breitenfeldt confirmed that

the pilot and passenger were the only two people aboard. The agency is investigating, he said in an email. There was no immediate word on the condition of the pilot and authorities did not release their identities.



### EU commission proposes plan to fight child pornography

### By SAMUEL PETREQUIN **Associated Press**

BRUSSELS (AP) — The European Union's executive arm on Wednesday unveiled a plan to require online platforms to detect and report the sharing of child sex abuse images on the internet, which quickly triggered privacy cerns.

regulation, which needs to be endorsed by member countries and the EU Parliament, would force companies operating in the EU to detect, report and remove the material.

Voluntary detection is currently the norm and the Commission believes that the system does not adequately protect children since many companies don't do the identification work.

Reports of online child sexual abuse in the 27-nation bloc have increased from 23,000 in 2010 to more than 1 million in 2020. International police agency Interpol has also reported a surge in the online distribution of sexually explicit images of children during the COVID-19 pandemic.

A similar increase has been noticed globally, with reports of child abuse on the internet rising from 1 million to almost 22 million dur-



European Commissioner for Home Affairs Ylva Johansson arrives for the weekly College of Commissioners meeting at EU headquarters in Brussels, Wednesday, April 27, 2022.

**Associated Press** 

ing 2014-2020 and over 65 million images and videos of children being sexually abused identified.

"Not only is the number of reports growing, but these reports today concern younger children," said Ylva Johansson, the EU Commissioner for Home Af-

"These reports are instrumental to starting investigations and rescuing children from ongoing abuse in real time," she added.

"Detection, reporting and

removal of child sexual abuse online is also urgently needed to prevent the sharing of images and videos of the sexual abuse of children, which retraumatizes the victims often years after the sexual abuse has ended."

In practice, providers will have to assess the risk that their services are misused to spread child pornography material or for grooming, and should propose risk mitigation measures.

If the competent authori-

ties in EU countries find there is a risk of abuse after reviewing the risk assessment, they will be able to ask a court to issue a detection order.

The EU Commission is adamant that the new rule would offer strong safeguards for the respect of privacy and personal data, although critics have said the proposal could allow companies to spy on users. Digital rights group EDRi warned that the proposal appears to call for widespread scanning of private communications and would discourage companies from providing end-toend encryption services, which scramble messages they're unreadable by anyone else and are used by chat apps Signal and WhatsApp. The group fears that tech companies would take the most intrusive measures to avoid legal troubles.

"The European Commission is opening the door for a vast range of authoritarian surveillance tactics," policy advisor Ella Jakubowska said.

Today, she said, online platforms will scan private messages for child sex abuse content.

"But once these methods are out there, what's stopping governments forcing companies to scan for evidence of dissidence or political opposition tomor-

The Commission said any review would take place anonymously and that steps to identify users would only be taken in the event that potential child abuse has been identified. In addition, the technology used would not allow the extraction of any information other than that necessary to detect the abuse. $\square$ 

### French court investigates Interpol chief over torture claims

**PARIS (AP)** — French judges universal jurisdiction. on Wednesday opened an investigation into torture allegations against Interpol President Maj. Gen. Ahmed Nasser al-Raisi of the United Arab Emirates.

Two British citizens, Matthew Hedges and Ali Issa Ahmad, who had both been detained in the UAE before al-Raisi was elected president of the Francebased world police agency, on Wednesday gave He has been accused by Ahmad has said he was evidence against him at human rights groups of in-detained and tortured by the Paris Tribunal's special unit for crimes against humanity and war crimes, their lawyers said.

The two Britons filed a criminal complaint against al-Raisi with the prosecutors of the Paris Tribunal in October under the principle of

In January, they filed a criminal complaint directly with the tribunal's judges to open an investigation into claims against al-Raisi. The new Interpol president was on French territory at the time, visiting the international police agency's headquarters in Lyon.

Al-Raisi was elected for a four-year term as Interpol volvement in torture and arbitrary detentions in the UAE.

The UAE has denied the allegations.

An Interpol spokesperson told The Associated Press in an email that the allegations against al-Raisi in

France are part of an issue "between the parties involved," and given that the investigation is ongoing "it would be premature for Interpol to comment."

Hedges was a doctoral student in the UAE when he was imprisoned for nearly seven months in 2018 on spying charges. He said he was tortured and at times held in solitary confinement president in November. with no access to a lawyer. UAE security agents during the 2019 Asian Cup soccer tournament he had attended in the Gulf country. Al-Raisi was the general inspector in the UAE interior ministry at the time of the two Britons' detentions a post he still holds in his



Inspector general at the United Arab Emirates interior ministry Maj. Gen. Ahmed Naser al-Raisi speaks on his cell phone during the first day of the Interpol annual assembly in Istanbul, Turkey, Tuesday, Nov. 23, 2021.

**Associated Press** 

country in addition to his leadership role in Interpol. According to French law, "an open investigation could lead to al-Raisi's

detention for questioning while he is next on French territory," said the Britons' international lawyer, Rodney Dixon.

### U.S., others say Africa has become main target of IS group

RABAT, Morocco (AP) -

A senior U.S. official said Wednesday the world must remain vigilant about the continued threat posed by the Islamic State group around the globe especially in Africa a reminder of an unfinished war despite the overwhelming preoccupation with the conflict in Ukraine.

Victoria Nuland, the U.S. undersecretary of state for political affairs, said the threat from IS was particularly high on the African continent, which she said saw nearly 500 IS terrorist incidents in 2021 resulting in the deaths of more than 2,900 people.

"At the same time as we are preventing the resurgence of (IS) in Iraq and Syria, we need to remain vigilant to the continued threat it poses elsewhere in the world, especially here on the African continent," she said.

Nuland spoke at the opening session in the Moroccan city of Marrakech of the annual gathering of members of the global anti-IS coalition. She is cochairing this year's meeting of the 8-year-old, 83-member bloc with Moroccan



A motorist passes by a flag of the Islamic State group in central Rawah, 175 miles (281 kilometers) northwest of Baghdad, Iraq, July 22, 2014.

**Associated Press** 

Foreign Minister Nasser Bourita. The gathering aims to reaffirm attendees' shared determination to continue fiahtina IS.

Nuland, the third highestranking U.S. diplomat, replaced Secretary of State Antony Blinken who tested positive for COVID-19.

IS at the height of its power controlled more than 40,000 square miles (103,600 square kilometers) stretching from Syria to Iraq and ruled over 8 million people. It lost its last patch of territory in eastern Syria in March 2019 following a years-long global fight against the group.

Since that time, it has largely gone underground and waged a low-level insurgency, including roadside bombings, assassinations and hit-and-run attacks mostly targeting security forces in Iraq and Syria.

In recent months, the group has exploited economic collapse, lack of governance and growing ethnic tensions in the impoverished region to reverse counter-IS gains. Its attacks in the region included a major assault earlier this year to seize a prison in northeast Syria holding at least 3,000 IS detainees. In Afghanistan, IS militants have stepped up attacks on the country's new rulers, the Taliban, as well as religious and ethnic minorities. The group has claimed several attacks in Israel recently, and an Islamic State affiliate in Egypt on Sunday claimed an attack that targeted a water pumping station east of the Suez Canal, killing at least 11 sol-

"We remain clear on the state of the (IS) threat, which has not diminished," said Bourita, warning that Africa has become the group's main target, suffering 41% of all IS attacks worldwide.

Militants pledging allegiance to the Islamic State group remain active in Mali, Niger and Burkina Faso, where they have been blamed for scores of attacks on villages that have killed hundreds of civilians. Islamic extremists in Nigeria also have carried out violence under the banner of a group they call the Islamic State West Africa Province. More recently, IS-affiliated militants have claimed responsibility for deadly violence targeting Congolese soldiers and bars in the country's embattled east.

### Thailand providing free cannabis plants for home cultivation



Thailand's Public Health Minister Anutin Charnvirakul speaks at a news conference at the Public Health Ministry in Nonthaburi, Thailand, Feb. 8, 2022, after signing a measure that drops cannabis from his ministry's list of controlled drugs.

Associated Press

BANGKOK (AP) — Thailand's public health minister, who has spearheaded the country's drive to decriminalize cannabis, says the government will distribute 1 million of the plants

free when most legal restrictions on production and possession of the drug are lifted next month.

Public Health Minister Anutin Charnvirakul signed a measure in February offi-

cially dropping cannabis, best known in the form of marijuana, from a list of controlled drugs. Closely regulated use of cannabis was legalized in 2018, with several restrictions gradually eased since then.

Thai officials hope that a major new cannabis industry will blossom, not only generating hundreds of millions of dollars directly each year, but also attracting foreign tourists, who have only recently begun returning in large numbers after being largely absent during the coronavirus pandemic. comes effective on June 9, possessing and using all parts of cannabis plants, including flowers and seeds, will be allowed. However, extracted content will remain illegal if it contains Drug Administration

more than 0.2% of the psychoactive ingredient that produces a "high" tetrahydrocannabinol, or THC.

Anutin declared Sunday on his Facebook page that individuals will no longer need to acquire a permit to grow cannabis at home, as long as it is declared to be for medicinal purposes and does not have THC content above the legal maximum. Thai officials have not explained how the conditions can be enforced. Anutin said with little elaboration that 1 million cannabis plants would be handed When the measure be- out beginning in June, and that people would be able to grow as many as they like at their homes.

Large-scale enterprises will still need permission from the country's Food and

make cannabis products, which are seen as being used mainly for medicines and food additives.

The Food and Drug Administration received about 4,700 applications by late last month for licenses to import, possess, grow and produce cannabis and hemp, the Bangkok Post newspaper reported. It quoted an FDA official as saying the products planned for production include hemp seed oil, dietary supplements, beverages, seasoning sauce, jelly candy and instant food. Anutin's Bhumjai Thai Party, a major partner in the coalition government, campaigned in the 2019 general election for the legalization of cannabis production, saying it would aid the country's farmers.



### Reports: Hong Kong arrests Roman Catholic cardinal, others

HONG KONG (AP) — Hong Kong authorities arrested a Roman Catholic cardinal, a singer and at least two others on Wednesday on suspicion of colluding with foreign forces to endanger China's national security, reports said.

Cardinal Joseph Zen, singer-actress Denise Ho, lawver Maraaret Na and scholar Hui Po-keuna were detained by Hong Kong's National Security Police, the U.K.-based human rights group Hong Kong Watch

The arrests were apparently related to their roles as trustees of the 612 Humanitarian Relief Fund, which provided legal aid to people who took part in 2019 prodemocracy protests that were quashed by security forces, the group said. The fund closed in 2021, it said. Scores of pro-democracy activists have been arrested under a sweeping National Security Law imposed on the city by Beijing in 2020 following the demonstrations. The city's independent media have been gutted and its legislature reorganized to pack it with Beijing loyalists.

Zen, the retired archbishop of Hong Kong, is a fierce



Retired archbishop of Hong Kong Cardinal Joseph Zen, left, holds a donation box during an annual New Year protest in Hong Kong, on Jan. 1, 2019.

**Associated Press** 

critic of China and has been blistering in his condemnation of the Vatican's 2018 agreement with Beijing over bishop nominations, which he has said was a sellout of underground Christians in China.

The Vatican spokesman, Matteo Bruni, said the Holy See "learned with concern the news of the arrest of Cardinal Zen and is following the evolution of the situation with extreme atten-

tion." Ho also has been outspoken in her advocacy of civil and political rights. Her manager, Jelly Cheng, confirmed Ho's arrest but said she had no other information.

Hui was arrested at Hong Kong's international airport as he sought to leave the city, Hong Kong Watch said.

"Today's arrests signal beyond a doubt that Beijing intends to intensify its crack-

down on basic rights and freedoms in Hong Kong," said the group's chief executive, Benedict Rogers.

"We urge the international community to shine a light on this brutal crackdown and call for the immediate release of these activists." Rogers said.

The White House also called on China and Hong Kong authorities to cease targeting Hong Kong advocates and immediately release Zen and others who were "unjustly detained and charged," deputy press secretary Karine Jean-Pierre said Wednesday.

Several leading Kong Kong activists have fled to Taiwan, Britain or elsewhere, while thousands of other Hong Kongers have chosen to leave the city, raising concerns about the economic future of the Asian financial center of 7.4 million. The arrests follow the selection on Sunday of Hong Kong's new leader, John Lee, a hard-line former security chief who ran unopposed in a process controlled by Beijing.

The European Union and foreign ministers from the Group of Seven industrialized countries — Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the U.K. and the U.S. - condemned the election as fundamentally undemocratic and a betrayal of the "one country, two systems" principle under which Hong Kong was supposed to retain its own political, legal and economic system for 50 years after the end of British colonial rule. Hong Kong's government and police had no immediate comment on the reported arrests.

### Paraguay organized crime prosecutor slain on Colombian beach

BOGOTA, Colombia (AP)

Paraguay's prosecutor of organized crime and drug trafficking cases was slain Tuesday by gunmen on a Colombian beach as he honeymooned with his new wife, who said the attackers came on a jet ski or small boat.

Prosecutor Marcelo Pecci married journalist Claudia Aguilera in April. Aguilera had recently shared photos on social media showing her and Pecci on the Barú peninsula in the Caribbian city of Cartagena.

Her final social media posting, hours before the attack, was a photo of herself and her husband with a pair of baby's shoes along with the message: "The best wedding gift ... the approaching life that is a testimony to the sweetest love." The Decameron Barú Hotel, where the couple was staying, said the attackers arrived on a jet ski and shot the couple while they were on the beach. The gunmen also fired at a security guard, who was unhurt, the hotel said.

Aguilera, who wasn't hurt in the attack, said two attackers came on a small boat or jet ski, saying she couldn't remember precisely. One of them got off and "without saying a word bean, south of the Colom- shot Marcelo twice, once in the face and once in the back."

> Colombia's foreign minister and vice president, Marta Lucía Ramírez, said authorities were working to clarify "the motives and authors of this heinous crime."

A "high command" crimi-

nal investigation unit had been sent to Cartagena, Colombian Defense Minister Diego Molano said. Paraguayan and U.S. officials will be integrated into the unit to help identify and prosecute the perpetrators, police said.

Pecci was investigating several high profile cases in Paraguay, including a shooting at a concert in January where an alleged drug trafficker and a soccer player's wife were killed. Paraguayan President Mario Abdo Benítez decried the "cowardly murder" of the prosecutor on Twitter. He vowed to redouble Paraguay's efforts against organized crime.

The director of Colombia's national police, Gen. Jorge Luis Vargas, said he hadn't been aware that Pecci



Attorney General of Paraguay Sandra Quiñonez prays to a Virgin Mary statue at the entrance of her office after she found out about the killing during his honeymoon in Colombia of Paraguayan prosecutor Marcelo Pecci, in Asuncion, Paraguay, Tuesday, May 10, 2022.

**Associated Press** 

was in Colombia. He said Pecci was one of the most heavily guarded people in Paraguay since he "investigated cases of international terrorism." Paraguay

is South America's largest marijuana producer. Growing the plant is still illegal in that country and much of the crop is smuggled into Argentina and Brazil.



# Fit2ffy COVID-19 Testing Center

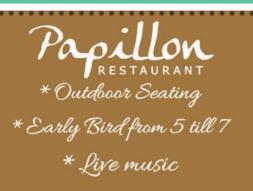
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# Chef's Garden

Papillon Chefs Tasting Menue by Chef Martijn Liebregts Located in"The Secret Garden"



### PALM BEACH — Do you remember the film "Papillon" starring Steve McQueen? Papillon restaurant is the island's example where `life imitates art.' The décor, especially the restrooms, was inspired by the movie. For more than a decade this restaurant has built a reputation with the fusion of classic French cuisine, Dutch and Caribbean flavors. Welcome in the world of wonders where ambiance, taste and service come together and you feel you are being welcomed in the home of the owner and her team.

"We find it really important that our guests have fun; can relax while listening to live music while their taste buds are being tickled by

### Papillon: the butterfly effect of magnificent food

France, The Netherlands and the Caribbean. We offer a unique fusion of dishes and a night not to forget," says owner Tina. She points out that all Covid-protocol is in place here, they are very keen on hygiene and offer outside dining on a cozy, elegant terrace with social distancing in place and right on the high-rise strip.

#### Fresh oysters, caviar and wild boar

You are on vacation, life is to enjoy! If you want something special, a different flow than the usual then Papillon is the place to go. Foodies are in heaven here with classic French dishes such as Foie Gras, Frog Legs, fresh Oysters coming in on a weekly basis from Holland, Escargots, Dover Sole à la Meunière flown in from Europe and filleted at the table, Duck Breast seared on the skin, roasted and braised Lamb in Balashi beer and slow braised Wild Boar Shank. Do not leave without trying the exclusive recommendation: Caviar! All of this combined with an extensive wine list from around the world makes Papil-Ion a must-do on your Aruban vacation.



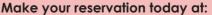
### Let the music play!

We will give you another reason to visit: on Monday's and Friday's the famous Marisela who enchants you with her acoustic performance accompanied by percussion only; on Thursday's and Saturday's you can enjoy the tunes of live sax player Jairo and on Sunday's and Tuesday's Jose Herrera will enchants you with his keyboard talent. The musicians interact with the guests, requests can be send in, the live tunes definitely add to the experi-

### Vegetarian vibes present

Impressive vegetarian/vegan dishes are set up especially for the guests by the chef and Meredith from Vegan Aruba. "We offer vegan choices that are really good and tasty. Our daily soup is always vegan too." What are you waiting for, make sure to pay a visit to this elegant yet laid-back restaurant while on Aruba. You are most welcome!

Papillon Restaurant is located at The Village across the Hilton Aruba Caribbean Resort &Casino and within walking distance of all other major hotels.



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### A blood moon will be visible from Aruba on Sunday, May 15, 2022

Oranjestad - The Moon will First stage pass through the Earth's shadow, creating a total lunar eclipse. The eclipse will be visible anywhere the Moon is above the horizon at the time, including from Africa, the Americas, Europe, and French Polynesia.

"A lunar eclipse happens when the Sun, Earth, and a full Moon form a nearperfect lineup in space, in what is known as syzygy," says Diana Hannikainen, Observing Editor at Sky & Telescope. The Moon slides into Earth's shadow, gradually darkening, until the entire lunar disk turns from silvery grey to an eerie dim orange or red. Then events unfold in reverse order, until the Moon returns to full brilliance. The whole process will take about five hours and 20 minutes. You only need your eyes to see the drama unfold, but if you have binoculars or a backyard telescope, they'll enhance the view.

The events that happen during a total lunar eclipse are more complex and interesting than many people realize. The event has five stages, each with different things to watch:

The Moon's leading edge enters the pale outer fringe of Earth's shadow: the penumbra. You probably won't notice anything until the Moon is about halfway across the penumbra.

The penumbra is the region where an astronaut standing on the Moon would see Earth covering only part of the Sun's face.

### Second stage

The Moon's leading edge enters the umbra, the cone of Earth's shadow within which the Sun's completely hidden. You should notice a dramatic darkening on the leading edge of the lunar disk. With a telescope, you can watch the edge of the umbra slowly engulfing one lunar feature after another, as the entire sky begins to grow darker.

### Third third

The trailing edge of the Moon slips into the umbra for the beginning of total eclipse. But the Moon won't black out completely: It's sure to glow some shade of intense orange or red.

The red umbral glow can be quite different from one eclipse to the next. Two main factors affect its

brightness and hue. The first is simply how deeply the Moon goes into the umbra as it passes through; the center of the umbra is darker than its edges. The other factor is the state of Earth's atmosphere. If a major volcanic eruption has recently polluted the stratosphere with thin global haze, a lunar eclipse can be dark red, ashen brown, or occasionally almost black.

### Fourth stage

As the Moon continues moving along its orbit, events replay in reverse order. The Moon's edge reemerges into sunlight, ending totality and beginning a partial eclipse again.

### Fifth stage

When all of the Moon escapes the umbra, only the last, penumbral shading is left. Some time later, nothing unusual remains.

From Aruba, the Lunar eclipse will be visible in the southern sky, weather permitting. It will start at 9:32PM and reach maximum at 12:11AM, where the maximum eclipse will last for 42 minutes. The Moon will regain total luminosity at 2:50AM (all times given in Aruba time).

| Event                          | UTC<br>Time         | Time in<br>Oranjestad* | Visible in<br>Oranjestad |
|--------------------------------|---------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|
| Penumbral<br>Eclipse<br>begins | 16 May,<br>01:32:05 | 15 May,<br>21:32:05    | Yes                      |
| Partial<br>Eclipse<br>begins   | 16 May,<br>02:27:52 | 15 May,<br>22:27:52    | Yes                      |
| Full<br>Eclipse<br>begins      | 16 May,<br>03:29:03 | 15 May,<br>23:29:03    | Yes                      |
| Maximum<br>Eclipse             | 16 May,<br>04:11:28 | 16 May,<br>00:11:28    | Yes                      |
| Full<br>Eclipse<br>ends        | 16 May,<br>04:53:55 | 16 May,<br>00:53:55    | Yes                      |
| Partial<br>Eclipse<br>ends     | 16 May,<br>05:55:07 | 16 May,<br>01:55:07    | Yes                      |
| Penumbral<br>Eclipse<br>ends   | 16 May,<br>06:50:49 | 16 May,<br>02:50:49    | Yes                      |







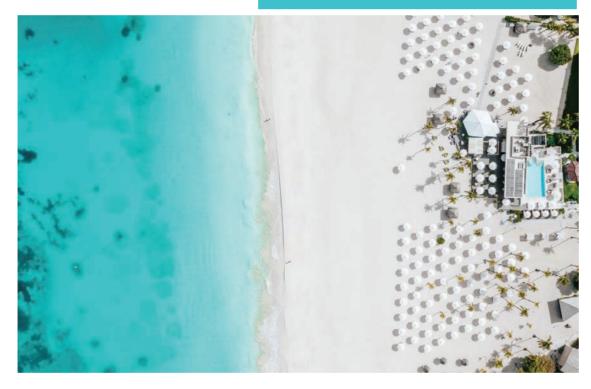
# Bucuti & Tara Beach Resort Sweeps Top Tripadvisor® Global Awards Capturing Five World and Caribbean top spots in Travelers' Choice Awards 2022

EAGLE BEACH - Today, Tripadvisor®, the world's largest travel guidance platform, announced the winners of its highly-anticipated annual Travelers' Choice® Awards for Hotels. Aruba's highest award-winning hotel, Bucuti & Tara is named among the Top 25 Best Hotels in the World and the Top 5 Most Romantic Hotels in the World.

Additionally, new for 2022, the Eagle Beach dream spot is among the Top 20 Hotels on the Water in the World. For the seventh straight year, Bucuti & Tara Beach Resort reigns as the No. 1 Most Romantic hotel in the Caribbean and No. 2 Best Hotel in the Carib



bean.



Now in its 20th year, Tripadvisor's Travelers' Choice Best of the Best Awards are determined based on the quality and quantity of traveler reviews and ratings specific to each subcategory posted on Tripadvisor throughout 2021. With more than one billion reviews and opinions of nearly eight million hospitality businesses, travelers turn to Tripadvisor seeking guidance from the very travelers who have been there before. Best of the Best Award winners represent fewer than 1% of Tripadvisor entities.

"It is an enormous honor to have been awarded in five Tripadvisor categories among millions of hotels and over a billion reviews, and all of us here at Bucuti & Tara Beach Resort, Aruba, are both humbled and elated," shares Ewald Biemans, Owner/CEO of Bucuti & Tara Beach Resort, Aruba. "Romance, wellness and sustainability are the cornerstones of Bucuti & Tara, and as travelers have shared on Tripadvisor, superior guest service is at the heart of our hospitality. Masha danki, our native Papiamento for 'thank you,' to every guest who took time to share their honest review and I commend every Bucuti Associate for their commitment to hospitality excellence."

### Aruba Hi-Winds is back

ORANJESTAD - Get ready for the 34th edition taking place from May 25-30th.

Aruba Hi-Winds introduces fun and action with it's 34th edition, where there will be multiples races for the community of Aruba along with our visitors to enjoy and be a part of.

The many races that are featured in this event are Kitesurfing races, Windsurfing races, IFCA (International Funboard Class Association) Windsurfing races, Mountain-bike races and kids races.

Along with the races there will be live bands playing, as well as many parties and events with DJ's playing and much more

On the official website for Aruba Hi-Winds competitors can already register for the upcoming races, and the community and our visitors can use the website to see the race/competition schedule as well as when the events and parties will take place.





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# How to avoid 'rug pulls,' the latest cryptocurrency scam

#### By ANDY ROSEN of Nerd-Wallet

A new type of scam has emerged in the hype-filled world of cryptocurrency: the "rug pull."

The scam, which gets its name from the expression "pulling the rug out," involves a developer attracting investors to a new cryptocurrency project, then pulling out before the project is built, leaving investors with a worthless currency. It's part of a long history of investment schemes.

"This isn't a crypto-only phenomenon. This is a people phenomenon. Crypto is just the latest way to do it," says Adam Blumberg, a Houston-based certified financial planner who specializes in digital assets. But cryptocurrencies have particular risks due to loose regulations for fundraising and their emphasis on decentralization.

Cryptocurrency projects often use "smart contracts," agreements that are governed by computer software, not the legal system. This setup can be a benefit when it reduces transaction costs, but it also leaves little recourse if things don't work out.

Rug pulls have been parnon-fungible tokens, that online. provide digital ownership



This April 3, 2013, file photo shows bitcoin tokens in Sandy, Utah.

have also been involved in rug pulls.

Investors can protect themselves by choosing established cryptocurrency projects, making sure the code of any new project has been reviewed and verifying the developers' identities.

#### PICK ESTABLISHED PROD-**UCTS**

Rug pulls are most common with new projects that haven't gotten the same scrutiny as more established cryptocurrencies.

tralized finance, or DeFi, countless people worldprojects that aim to disrupt wide have used it and reand insurance. NFTs, or which are readily available

of art and other content, such a track record, which seen periods of rapid price zations in an organized and

means there may be vulnerabilities that make it possible for their organizers to siphon value away from investors and keep it for themselves.

If you're struggling to break through the hype, one way to find established projects is to look at centralized exchanges such as Binance, Coinbase and FTX. While the presence of a cryptocurrency on a large exchange is by no means a guarantee of its quality or investment potential, these ticularly common in decen- Bitcoin has its risks, but businesses often will review assets before listing them for sale.

appreciation, the highest rewards may come from new projects where the risk is also higher. These are often listed on "decentralized exchanges," which don't rely on any centralized authority that would prevent

unproven projects from

**Associated Press** 

Rex Hygate, founder of De-FiSafety, a company that reviews projects in the field, says scammers can prey on the fear of missing out that's generated by rare but true stories of mind-blowing re-

"It is seductive.

joining.

services such as banking viewed its inner workings, The trade-off of investing of money. That is a fact," primarily in more estab- Hygate says. "The hope lished assets: While crypto- is real, albeit small, (and) Newer projects don't have currency, in general, has therefore criminal organi-

regular manner are making these rug pulls."

### **KNOW THE CODE**

The fate of any investment in cryptocurrency or blockchain projects rests on the integrity of the project's computer code. You may not be a computer programmer, but you should at least understand how a product works before investing in it.

One way to evaluate a potential investment without going under the hood yourself is to see if it's been audited by a professional organization that is respected in the industry. Projects that have gotten good marks from auditors will often promote the results themselves.

### **RESEARCH THE PEOPLE**

Some of the biggest red flags in the cryptocurrency world come down to human factors.

While it's not unheard of for people to use pseudonyms in cryptocurrency, reputable developers often have websites and references that can establish their credentials.

But even if you do your homework, there's guarantee of success. For example, the founder of Rugdoc.io, a service that reviews new projects, says she wound up getting People have made a lot scammed herself on an NFT that was supposed to be a ticket for an event.

> Diversification is as important in cryptocurrency as anywhere else in finance.



### CROSSWORD By THOMAS JOSEPH

**ACROSS** 43 Open, in 1 Dupes a way 5 Cartoon 44 Rescued genre 45 Rings **10** Had a 46 Porgy's go at love 12 Element

number 5 DOWN

13 Zellweger 1 Play, as a of banjo "Chicago" 2 Concert 14 Increase venue 15 First 3 Western

evergreen

4 Spot

singers

6 Lunch

time

7 It began

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8 Sauntered

número 16 Brit's wrench 18 Fashion

20 Ensign's answer 21 Amorous

archer 23 "Aw, shucks!"

**24** Aid

illegally 26 Copied 28 In the past

29 Ump's call 31 Chess pieces 32 Leather worker

36 Appointment book 39 Brewpub order

**40** Mideast peninsula 41 Words of surrender

HILL EXHALE GEODES ESPY |E|X|T|O|R|T| CRAS R|E|C|Y|C|L|E E M U REACTOR OLDER JOGS AROUSE TOWARD AMELIA MEAL HELLOS

Yesterday's answer

9 Main dish 28 Intensifies 11 Barren 30 Put away areas **33** Too **17** NFL trusting 34 Pole player

5 "Waterloo" 19 Originally workers called 35 Marsh **22** Game plants

37 Finger quests 24 Wrinkle feature 38 Wee 25 Windfall 1000 B.C. 27 Signing bites

42 Yak it up

need

### AXYDLBAAXR is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

5-12 **CRYPTOQUOTE** 

43

VF JOMIFV CI QFAM EMCOVT

RDF TOWXVTI QFAM ICYOVUO

FM TOVCOI QFAM MCLDH HF

LMFR. — XYCUO RXYGOM

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: ΙT TAKES NO POLITICAL DEAL TO GIVE PEOPLE FREEDOM. IT TAKES NO SURVEY TO REMOVE REPRESSION. — HARVEY MILK

### Most Great Barrier Reef coral studied this year was bleached



In this photo supplied by the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority (GBRMPA), a diver swims past coral on the Great Barrier Reef in Australia, Oct. 18, 2016.

**Associated Press** 

By ROD McGUIRK **Associated Press** 

CANBERRA, Australia (AP) - More than 90% of Great Barrier Reef coral surveyed this year was bleached in the fourth such mass event in seven years in the world's largest coral reef ecosystem, Australian government scientists said.

Bleaching is caused by global warming, but this is the reef's first bleaching event during a La Niña weather pattern, which is associated with cooler Pacific Ocean temperatures, the Great Barrier Reef Marine Authority said in its annual report released late Tuesday that found 91% of the areas surveyed were affected.

Bleaching in 2016, 2017 and 2020 damaged two-thirds of the coral in the famed reef off Australia's eastern coast.

Coral bleaches as a heat stress response and scientists hope most of the coral will recover from the current event, said David Wachenfeld, chief scientist at the authority, which manages the reef ecosystem.

"The early indications are that the mortality won't be very high," Wachentela said on Wednesday.

"We are hoping that we that is bleached recover and we will end up with an event rather more like 2020 when, yes, there was mass bleaching, but there was

low mortality," Wachenfeld added.

The bleaching events in 2016 and 2017 led to "quite high levels of coral mortality," Wachenfeld said.

Simon Bradshaw, a researcher at the Climate Council, an Australiabased group that tracks climate change, said the report demonstrated the reef's survival depended on steep global emission cuts within the decade.

"This is heartbreaking. This is deeply troubling," Bradshaw said. "It shows that our Barrier Reef really is in very serious trouble indeed."

Last December, the first month of the Southern Hemisphere summer, was the hottest December the reef had experienced since 1900. A "marine heatwave" had set in by late February, the report said.

A United Nations delegation visited the reef in March to assess whether the reef's World Heritage listing should be downgraded due to the ravages of climate change.

In July last year, Australia garnered enough international support to defer an will see most of the coral the reef's World Heritage status to "in danger" because of damage caused by climate change.

> But the question will be back on the World Heri

tage Committee's agenda at its next annual meeting. The Great Barrier Reef accounts for around 10% of the world's coral reef ecosystems and was named because of the extensive hazards it posed to 18th century seafarers. The network of more than 2,500 reefs covers 348,000 square kilometers (134,000 square miles).

Coral is made up of tiny animals called polyps that are fed by microscopic algae that live inside the reefs and are sensitive to changes in water temperatures.

The algae provide the reefs with their kaleidoscope of colors and produce sugars through photosynthesis that provide the coral with most of its nutrients.

Rising ocean temperatures turn the chemicals that the algae produce into toxins. The coral turns white as it effectively spits the poisonous algae out.

Heat stress beyond a few weeks can lead the coral to die of starvation.

The latest bleaching is an unwelcome reminder of the differences in climate change policy among Australian politicians.

The conservative government seeking reelection on May 21 has less ambitious emission reduction targets than the center-left opposition is promising.

Prime Minister Scott Morrison's Liberal Party aims to reduce Australia's emissions by 26% to 28% below 2005 levels by 2030.

The opposition Labor Party has promised to reduce emissions by 43% by the end of the decade.

Morrison was widely criticized at the U.N. climate conference last November for failing to set a more ambitious target.

The environmental group Greenpeace Australia Paattempt by UNESCO, the cific said in a statement the United Nations' cultural or- extent of the latest bleachganization, to downgrade ing was "another damning indictment of the Morrison government which has failed to protect the reef and exacerbated the problem through its support of fossil fuels."

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### Study uncovers clues to rise in uterine cancer death rates

#### By CARLA K. JOHNSON

A rare but aggressive kind of uterine cancer appears to be driving an increase in U.S. deaths from the disease, particularly among Black women, researchers reported Thursday.

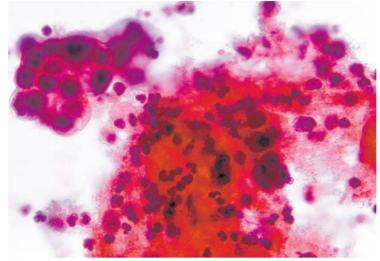
Over eight years, deaths from the aggressive type rose by 2.7% per year, while deaths were stable for the less agaressive kind, their study found. Black women had more than twice the rate of deaths from uterine cancer overall, and of the more aggressive type, when compared to other racial and ethnic groups.

The aggressive kind called Type 2 endometrial cancer — is more difficult to treat. By the end of the study period, it accounted for about 20% of cases and 45% of deaths.

"For most cancers, there have been improvements over the last 20 years. It's alarming that we haven't had the same success with be diagnosed in the U.S. uterine cancer," said Dr. Pamela Soliman of MD Anderson Cancer Center in

**T**DAY

Downtown



This undated microscope photo made available by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention shows the results of a Papanicolaou test, or Pap test, with a positive indication for the presence of uterine cervical adenocarcinoma, classified as Stage-III.

**Associated Press** 

Houston, who was not involved in the study.

"This allows us to focus our efforts on specific areas that could potentially have a bigger impact on mortality," Soliman said.

An estimated 65,950 new cases of uterine cancer will this year and 12,550 women are expected to die from it.

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Irregular bleeding can be a warning sign, but there is no recommended screenina test.

Researchers analyzed U.S. cancer data for women 40 and older. They found overall uterine cancer death rates increased by 1.8% per year from 2010 to 2017.

### **Editor**

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### Review: Acting chemistry boosts (very) dark 'Count of Three'

### By JOCELYN NOVECK

"On the Count of Three" is marketed as a "darkly comic" movie. Well, there's dark comedy and there's darker comedy, and then there's comedy like this — so dark that you wonder if the two words can realistically coexist in one sentence.

So it's not clear in which genre to place this edgily confident if bumpy and unsettling directorial debut from talented comedian Jerrod Carmichael, a buddy movie that begins with said buddies pointing loaded guns at each other with the intention of firing at the same time (hence the disturbing title.)

Clearly things won't be going perfectly to plan, because then there'd be no more movie left. But, just a warning: The sense you might get right then and there of "I'm really not sure I can watch this" will likely stay with you for the full 86 minutes, even as you acknowledge the considerable acting chemistry generated by Carmichael, directing himself, and Christopher Abbott.

So, back to that scene. It comes a few hours into the bleak winter's day covered



This image released by United Artists shows Jerrod Carmichael, from left, Christopher Abbott and and JB Smooth in a scene from "On the Count of Three."

**Associated Press** 

by the film. Without divulging too much, Val (Carmichael) and Kevin (Abbott) are longtime friends, but very different trajectories have brought them to this dreary parking lot. Val is working at a landscaping supply store and his best prospects seem to be a promotion to floor manager. He begins this work day by taking all his allotgood sign.

Val decides to go visit Kevin, and suddenly they're inadvertently presented with an opportunity to break Kevin out of the institution he's in. Thus begins a day in which they both seek to right the wrongs committed against them, and perhaps some they've committed themselves.

ted smoking breaks, not a The script by Ari Katcher and Ryan Welch makes a game effort throughout to toggle between humor and pathos, levity and despair, with occasional hits and some misses, too. (It's quite a tall order, even without the broader references to issues like police racism and gun control.) What's consistent is an unnerving unpredictability —

we really don't know how this day will resolve itself and the authenticity of the lead actors, who make us care even as we struggle to accept some of the plot elements. Without these sharply calibrated performances, the film would flounder.

Each man is given unresolved conflicts, some more compelling than others. Val, in a relatively restrained performance by Carmichael — who, through his comedy, certainly has experience taking humor to bleak places — has serious issues with his estranged father (J.B. Smoove of "Curb Your Enthusiasm.") He also has to face up to his inability to be a responsible partner to a trusting girlfriend, Natasha ("Carmichael Show" colleague Tiffany Haddish, underused in a small role). As for Kevin, played more broadly by Abbott, he has deep anger at a man, now serving his country in the military, who bullied him in younger days. Worse, there's the creepy doctor who molested him in his youth. (Henry Winkler plays the unfortunate medical professional).

### For auction: Marilyn's clothes, Thor's hammer, Cap's shield





This combination photo shows Marilyn Monroe on the set of "Something's Got To Give," in Los Angeles in April 1962, left, and a custom-made pale pink silk blouse worn by Monroe in "Let's Make Love."

### By LINDSEY BAHR

It may not be that Marilyn Monroe dress, but several gowns she donned for "Gentlemen Prefer Blondes" and "There's No Business Like Show Business" are go-

ing up for auction this summer along with 1,400 other pieces of Hollywood history. Over three days in July, Turner Classic Movies and Julien's Auctions are teaming up to auction off items

like Captain America's shield from "Captain America: The First Avenger," a two-piece Givenchy ensemble worn by Audrey Hepburn as Holly Golightly in "Breakfast at Tiffany's" and Jules Winnfield's "bad mother (expletive)" wallet from "Pulp Fiction," the organizations said Tuesday. One of the six original Stormtrooper helmets from "Star Wars: A New Hope" is among the items being auctioned off. The helmet was used during the Tunisia shoot and later restored by Star Wars expert foy's "Nimbus 2001" broomstick and Voldemort's Elder Wand, are also up for bidding, as is the hammer used by Chris Hemsworth in "Thor: The Dark World."

There will be special collections from the estates of James Garner, Robert Stack and Doris Day, as well as legendary editor Anne V. Coates' marked scripts, including a neverbefore-seen glimpse into Oscar-winning cision-making on David Lean's "Lawrence of Arabia." Other Coates items include her lined scripts for "The Elephant Man" and "Out of Sight."

"Our fans crave a tangible connection to their passion and now they can satisfy that desire with these icon-Gino Sabatino. A variety ic costumes and unique leading auction house to of props used in the Harry memorabilia from the mov- the stars," said Martin No-Potter films, like Draco Malies we air on TCM," said lan, Executive Director of TCM's general manager Pola Changnon.

> One of the biggest ticket items is a yacht once owned by JP Getty that was used in the exte

rior scenes of the film "Pal Joey," starring Frank Sinatra, Rita Hayworth and Kim Novak. There are also costume jewelry options worn by Monroe, Hayworth, Judy Garland, Olivia de Havilland and Barbara Stanwyck from Joseff of Hollywood.

"Today marks an exciting milestone for Julien's Auctions as our new collaboration with TCM will bring our world class collection of important Hollywood artifacts and our premium auctions to new heights and build on our reputation as the Julien's Auctions.

The auction will run July 15 through July 17 at Julien's Actions in Beverly Hills and online at https://juliensauctions.com.



## Gleyber day: Torres' 5 RBIs lead surging Yanks over Jays 5-3

NEW YORK (AP) — Gleyber Torres drove in all New York's runs with a goahead, three-run homer off José Berríos in the fourth inning and a two-run single, leading the surging Yankees over the Toronto Blue Jays 5-3 Wednesday for their 15th win in 17 games. An All-Star in his first two seasons who slumped in 2020 and '21, Torres restored a two-run lead with his sixthinning single off Trevor Richards. Torres has four home runs in his last 11 games. Overall, he is batting .222 with five homers and 18 RBIs New York won its seventh straight series and improved to a major leaguebest 22-8, its best 30-game start since 2003. The Yankees are 13-0 when scoring five runs or more.

Toronto has lost a seasonhigh four straight and seven of nine. On a sloppy day for the Blue Jays, Bo Bichette failed to advance to third on an errant pitch following his fifth-inning double. Vladimir Guerrero Jr. then struck out, slammed his bat against the ground and snapped the lumber over his left knee.

After Yankees shortstop Isiah Kiner-Falefa bobbled Santiago Espinal's two-out



New York Yankees' Gleyber Torres celebrates in the dugout after hitting a three-run home run off Toronto Blue Jays starting pitcher Jose Berrios (17) in the fourth inning of a baseball game, Wednesday, May 11, 2022, in New York.

**Associated Press** 

first of his two errors, Alejandro Kirk tripped over second base and was tagged by Torres after initially beating the throw.

There didn't appear to be any carryover from the Yankees' 6-5 win the previous night, a game that turned testy and saw three

grounder in the sixth for the ro was hit by a pitch in the first inning, a plunking that didn't raise any issues.

> Jameson Taillon (3-1) allowed Toronto's first three batters to reach, then settled down and allowed two runs in 5 1/3 innings.

Torres gave the Yankees a 3-1 lead after Anthony Rizzo and DJ LeMahieu singled in Blue Jays ejected. Guerre- the fourth. Berríos left an 0-2

fastball over the plate that Torres drove 361 feet into the right field short porch. Clay Holmes aot Guerrero to ground into an inning-

ending double play with

two on in the seventh.

Espinal doubled leading off the ninth against Aroldis Chapman, No. 9 hitter Raimel Tapia walked and George Springer hit a sacrifice fly. Bichette hit a long drive just foul before striking out as he swung under a 100 mph pitch, and Guerrero popped out as Chapman remained perfect in eight save chances.

Berríos gave up five runs and five hits in 5 1/3 innings, raising his ERA to 5.82.

Toronto loaded the bases with no outs in the first when Springer walked, Bichette singled and Guerrero was hit by a sinker on the left elbow pad. Taillon gave up a run when Teoscar Hernández grounded into a forceout, then struck out Lourdes Gurriel Jr. and retired Kirk on a foulout. Hernández reached on an infield single leading off the sixth he originally was called out by first base umpire Shane Livensparger but the call was reversed on a video review — and scored on Matt Chapman's sacrifice fly off Michael King.

#### JUDGE-MENT DAY

Yankees GM Brian Cashman said he will not discuss publicly whether any contract talks are going on with Aaron Judge. The outfielder is eligible for arbitration, with a hearing possible up until June 24, and can become a free agent after the World Series.  $\square$ 

# Démare sprints to win 5th stage of Giro, López stays in pink

MESSINA, Sicily (AP) — French cyclist Arnaud Démare won a bunch sprint at the end of the fifth stage of the Giro d'Italia on Wednesday and Juan Pedro López kept hold of the leader's pink jersey.

Démare, who rides for Groupama-FDJ, edged Fernando Gaviria at the end of the 174-kilometer (108-mile) route from Catania to Messina after sprint favorites Mark Cavendish and Caleb Ewan had been dropped earlier in the day. Démare also struggled on the climb but his team managed to eventually get him back to the peloton.

It was a sixth stage win in the Giro for the 30-yearold Démare but his first win of the year after a difficult start to 2022.

"My victory today means that in cycling we must never give up," Démare said. "The sprint has been fluid from my point of view, even though it might have appeared chaotic. I've been patient before I launched the sprint.

"I lost a fair bit of time up the hill but my teammates have done a great job to bring me back quickly in the downhill. Then we worked hard to maintain Cavendish and Ewan behind."

Giacomo Nizzolo was third. Most of the overall con- all three grand tours, made tenders crossed the line together. López maintained his 39-second advantage over Lennard Kämna after moving into the overall lead on Tuesday. Rein Taaramäe was third, 58 seconds behind López.

"I don't believe the mo-

ment, it's the first day of my life with the maglia rosa," López said. "A lot of riders say to me, 'Congratulations, enjoy, enjoy the day, enjoy the moment,' and for sure I enjoy the moment because it's one of the best days of my life."

Meanwhile, one of the outside favorites, two-time winner Vincenzo Nibali, announced he will retire from the sport at the end of the year. An emotional Nibali, who is one of only seven riders in history to have won the announcement after arriving in his hometown.

The 37-year-old Nibali is nicknamed "The Shark of Messina." Five riders escaped early in the day but they were caught after 100 kilometers (62 miles). The main drama happened on



Arnaud Demare celebrates as he crosses the finish line to win the fifth stage of the Giro D'Italia cycling race from Catania to Messina, Italy, Wednesday, May 11, 2022.

**Associated Press** 

the only climb of the day, a second-category ascent up to Portella Mandrazi. With Cavendish and Ewan dropped, the peloton upped the pace and they were unable to catch up. Cavendish's Quick-Step Alpha Vinyl team put in a solid effort but the high speed of the peloton eventually forced them to give up hope of closing the gap. Cavendish and Ewan crossed the line almost 12 minutes behind the sprint.



### For future with team, Nets want more commitment from Irving

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Kyrie Irving may have to show the Brooklyn Nets he's more than a great basketball player if he wants a future with the team.

General manager Sean Marks made clear Wednesday that Irving will have to prove a commitment to being available to his team that wasn't there this season.

After Irving missed almost all the Nets' home games because he refused to be vaccinated against the coronavirus, Marks said talks about a potential contract extension this summer will need to include an evaluation of his dedication to play unless he's injured.

"I think those are going to be discussions," Marks said. "It's a team sport and you



Brooklyn Nets guard Kyrie Irving (11) drives past Boston Celtics guard Marcus Smart, left, during the first half of Game 4 of an NBA basketball first-round playoff series, Monday, April 25, 2022, in New York.

**Associated Press** 

need everybody out there on the court."

The Nets rarely had that during a disappointing season that saw an NBA

championship favorite finish seventh in the Eastern Conference and get swept by the Boston Celtics in the first round.

They began the season playing without Irving, deciding they didn't want him to be a part-time player. They eventually brought him back in December to play road games only—a decision Marks wouldn't second-guess—with Irving unable to play in New York because of the city's mandate requiring vaccination to perform in public venues

An exemption to the mandate made him available for all games in late March, but by then the Nets were climbing out of a huge hole and had to win a play-in game just to reach the postseason.

Irving is eligible for an extension this summer and said he sees himself remaining in Brooklyn alongside Kevin Durant, who signed an extension last summer. He said after the season he saw those two players "managing this franchise together" alongside Marks and owner Joe Tsai.

Marks said they haven't had any contract discussions yet with Irving but said the Nets know what they're looking for.

"We're looking for guys that want to come in here and be part of something bigger than themselves, play selfless, play team basketball and be available," Marks said. "And that goes not only for Kyrie but for everybody here."

Irving has an option for almost \$37 million next season, but could seek an extension that would pay him an additional \$185 million over four years. His play seems worthy of it, as Irving averaged 27.4 points last season, which would have ranked eighth in the league. But he played only 29 games in the second straight season in which he missed time when he wasn't hurt. Irving took a leave of absence from the team during the 2020-21 season, missing nine games for personal reasons.

This time, Marks acknowledged that Irving's absences put an extra workload on Durant. He said the Nets need to have deep discussions after this season, including about their players' intentions. Irving never specified why he wouldn't get vaccinated, saying it was a personal choice.

"What drives them? Do they want to be part of this? Are they motivated by something that maybe is not good for the whole team?" Marks said. "So those are questions we're going to have to ask ourselves and also the players that we want to bring back in here." Marks provided good news on Ben Simmons, whom he said is already feeling better after having back surgery last week to relieve pain from a herniated disk. Simmons never played for the Nets after they acquired the former No. 1 pick from Philadelphia in February.

